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(b) whether these Advisory Boards are consulted on matters relating to the administration of temples, and the appointments of trustees to the temples;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Commissioner in charge of Cuddapah district has been making appointments of trustees without consulting the Advisory Board;

(d) whether it is a fact that lands belonging to the temples have been alienated to private people in Cuddapah district;

(e) whether it is a fact that on account of alienations of these lands, the temples are not being looked after properly;

(f) whether it is a fact that lands of temples of Chinnakomerla of Jammalamadugu taluk, Cuddapah district, and Chinna Pampala village of the above taluk have been alienated in favour of private parties;

(g) what action the Commissioner is taking in all these alienations;

(h) how many trustees are in existence for the temple at Ontimitta (Cuddapah district);

(i) what the value is of jewels of the temple at Ontimitta, and whether all these jewels are now in the possession of the trustees; and

(j) what necessitated the appointment of more than one trustee to the above temple?

*A.*—(a) & (b) Advisory Committees have been constituted by the Hindu Religious Endowments Board in eighteen districts. These Committees are generally consulted as regards the appointment of trustees to temples.

(c) Yes.

(d) & (e) Alienations of lands have taken place in the case of a large number of temples; it cannot however be said that in all these cases the temples are not properly looked after.

(f) The answer is in the affirmative so far as the inams at Chinnakomerla endowed to Sri Chennakesavaswami temple at Peddakomerla are concerned. Information is not available as regards the inams of the temples in Chinna Pampala village.

(g) In the case of the inams endowed to Sri Chennakesavaswami temple mentioned above and the temples in Chinnapasupula village, trustees have been appointed by the board to get the alienations set aside.

(h) & (j) The mismanagement of the temple of Sri Kothandaramaswami at Ontimitta by the sole trustee necessitated the appointment of two additional trustees. The term of the former having expired and one of the additional trustees having been subsequently removed, there is only one trustee at present.

(i) As far as information is available, there are no jewels for the temple.

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Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—" May I know whether it is the intention of the Hon. Minister to continue these advisory committees on a permanent basis? Or is it his intention to have temple committees elected as soon as possible, as provided for in the Act? "

The Hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" A measure to amend the Hindu Religious Endowments Act to enable the Government to reconstitute these committees is now under consideration."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—" May I know whether the Minister is aware that the temples are more likely to be mismanaged by these advisory committees? "

The Hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" If any specific cases are brought to my notice, I shall look into them, Sir."

## Commerce

*Protest against the removal of export duty on raw hides.*

* 872 *Q.*—B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur: Will the Hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any memorial from the Southern India Chamber of Commerce, Madras Chamber of Commerce and the Southern India Skin and Hide Merchants' Association or from any of them protesting against the removal of the export duty on raw hides, and if so, whether the Government have forwarded the same to the Government of India;

(*b*) whether the Government are aware that the Madras Presidency is the biggest tanning centre in the whole of India and that tanning is the premier industry of the Madras Presidency; and

(*c*) whether the Government will be prepared to press the Government of India for a reconsideration of their present decision with regard to the removal of the export duty on raw hides?

*A.*—(*a*) The Government have just received a memorial.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The request will be considered.

B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur:—" May I know whether the export duty that was introduced was not intended for the protection of the tanning industry in hides? "

The Hon. Sir Hopetoun Stokes:—" I understand that it was so."

Mr. F. Birley:—" May I ask whether the Hon. the Finance Member is himself convinced that the removal of the export duty on raw hides is detrimental to the interests of this Presidency? "

The Hon. Sir Hopetoun Stokes:—" So far as I can judge, it will be so."

Mr. F. Birley:—" Has the Hon. the Finance Member appreciated the lack of consistency in the Government of India's action in removing a revenue-producing duty in the present financial conditions? "